

TION

EA-6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

No 15-1 Viet N.

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
		5
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	10	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3
		NSC
		6

A-17
NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED

TO : Department of State DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : Bangkok, Saigon, CINCPAC SEP 18 12 51 PM 1969

FROM : AmEmbassy PHNOM PENH DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

SUBJECT : Cambodian Reaction to Death of Ho Chi Minh

REF

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

The official reaction to the death of Ho Chi Minh was:

a. A declaration of an official day of mourning on September 5.

b. Religious services held at the Royal Palace and personally attended by Prince Sihanouk, as well as by other officials of the government and representatives of North Viet-Nam and the PRG.

(a. and b. form part of a proclamation by Prince Sihanouk of new regulations to be observed in the case of the death of chiefs of state or sovereigns of friendly countries, to the effect that Cambodia would observe three days of mourning, including a day of national mourning during which there would be religious services at the Royal Palace under the direction of the Chief of State, and that during the three days flags on all public buildings would be at half mast and no public festivities would be permitted.)

c. The Prince sent a special message to the Vice-President of the DRV praising the late Ho Chi Minh. So did General Lon Nol.

d. Sihanouk personally headed a delegation including the Foreign Minister; Lt. Gen. Ngo Hou, Counselor; the Ambassador to Hanoi, Nay Valentin; Prince Sisowath Methavi, President-Director General of Royal Air Cambodge; and their wives, to attend the funeral ceremonies in Hanoi.

e. Upon arrival in Hanoi the Prince issued a statement again praising the late Ho Chi Minh, coming as close as it is possible without naming

FORM
4-62 DS-323

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☐ In ☐ OutDrafted by: LMR
Charge: LMR/es/rbd 9/10/69

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

CONFIDENTIAL

2

A-17 from Phnom Penh

names to attacking the United States and its allies in South Viet-Nam: "May I be allowed...to bring you the admiration of Cambodia and its people for your heroic and victorious resistance against the imperialist aggressors and for the remarkable reconstruction of your country devastated by bombardment. I also wish to renew our unreserved support for the and legitimate position of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and to the Re onary Government of South Viet-Nam for the reestablishment of peace."

Comment: While the Cambodian, and particularly Prince Sihanouk's, regret at the death of Ho Chi Minh was extensive and perhaps sincere up to a point, the Embassy does not believe that too much importance should be attached to it. It will be noted that the special three-day period of mourning and the religious ceremony in honor of the dead leader have been decreed as de rigueur for all sovereigns or chiefs of state. The attendance at the funeral in Hanoi and the remarks made upon arrival appear to be part of Sihanouk's delicate balancing act in trying to protect his nation from later suspected Vietnamese ambitions. Some of the usual, well-known phrases were used, but he carefully named no names at any time.

RIVES

CONFIDENTIAL